



AWHONN

CALIFORNIA

PROMOTING THE HEALTH OF
WOMEN AND NEWBORNS

Greetings from your Section Chair



Beth Stephens-Hennessy RNC-OB, EFM, MSN, CNS

on February 12th and 13th has two full days of speakers related to Equity, Diversity and Safety. The Save the Date was emailed to you on November 15th. Please share this with your staff and sister hospitals.

Our chapters have been providing great programs to our nurses and are now all ZOOM experts! Legislation has continued to occur, and our Legislation team will update you on new laws related to Perinatal. We continue to graduate new nurses and we need to include them in the AWHONN family. Our membership team has been doing a great job following up with new members and lapsed members. You have a part in spreading the AWHONN Mission and Values. You can invite people to a chapter meeting, post new legislation for all to see, and give all of your new hires, the benefits of becoming an AWHONN member flier. You can make a difference!

The theme for our Virtual AWHONN California conference is "Forging Ahead". After what we have been through, we need to go forward, and learn what is new in Perinatal care. Covid did not stop the progress of new toolkits, and quality improvements in maternal and neonatal care. We were able to chew gum and change at the same time!

The conference will have a 2-hour pre-conference for students on February 11th. The main conference

Greetings from your Secretary/Treasurer

Such an exciting time to learn new skills and embrace the virtual world! While it does not come without challenges, and while we miss the hugs and laughs that only in-person togetherness can bring, we are greatly expanding our reach with virtual education. It is wonderful to see all the AWHONN chapter activity in California. We have virtual webinars, educational meetings or conferences offered almost weekly, which are well attended by participants throughout the state and even on a national level!



Marinda du Toit, BCUR, RNC-OB, C-EFM, IBCLC

We are looking forward to our February AWHONN CA Virtual Conference, where we have some amazing speakers lined up! Please share the information with anyone who may benefit from it.

Thank you for all you do to continue to provide excellent, safe care to all mothers and babies!

Education Coordinator

We are very sad that Christine Gurney will be leaving this position to pursue other interests out of state. We want to thank her for her leadership in this role and wish her success as she starts a new phase in her life. Kristi Gabel will replace Christine. Many of you may know Kristi, as she has held positions in the Section previously.



Welcome back Kristi!

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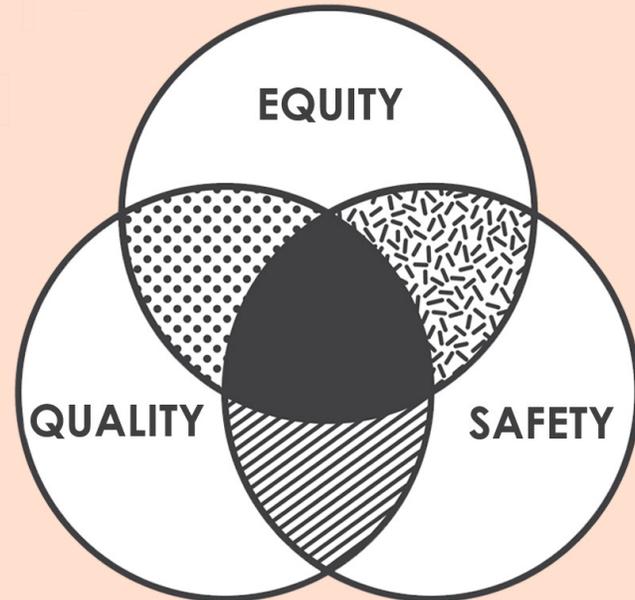


SAVE THE DATE



Join us as we forge ahead

Virtual Conference February 12-13, 2022



2 hour Pre-Conference available on February 11, 2022 for Students and RN's interested in transitioning to OB/NICU.

If you are interested in presenting a poster, please email awhonn.casection@gmail.com to request an application by January 1, 2022.

Speakers include Lisa Miller, Suzanne McMurtry Baird, Dr. Maurice Druzin, Dr. Kimberly Gregory, Dr. Audrey Lyndon

Legislative Update

Tracy Weeber, MN, CNS, RNC-OB, C-EFM, C-ONQS
Amy Scott MSN, WHNP-BC, RNC-OB, C-EFM
Coordinators

As this calendar year closes, we continue to strive to expand members' knowledge of the advocacy process and the legislation that impacts our patients both federally and statewide.

Hot off the press! **AWHONN 2022 Federal Legislative and Policy Agenda**

The power of advocacy and data will change how we treat the birthing people and infants. Nurses play a critical role in advocacy and research. Your individual voice and actions are important!

Contact your local and federal legislators. Find out who they are here: [Elected Officials](#) | [USAGov](#).

Federal 117th Congress (<https://www.congress.gov/>)

- [HR 958 \(Underwood\)/S 796 \(Duckworth\) Protecting Moms Who Served Act of 2021](#) **became law 117-69 on 11/30/21**; this law requires coordination of maternal care between VA and non-VA services
- [HR 3407 \(Robin\)/SB 411 \(Durbin\) MOMMA's Act](#) is in Committees for both the Senate and the House. Bill proposes to improve Federal efforts with respect to the prevention of maternal mortality
- [HR 1195 \(Courtney\) Workplace Violence Prevention for Health Care and Social Service Workers Act](#) **passed the House 4/16/21** and was referred to the Senate on 4/19/21
- [HR 959 \(Underwood\)/S 346 \(Booker\) Black Maternal Health Momnibus Act of 2021](#) remains in Committee for both the House and the Senate; this bill proposes to end preventable maternal mortality and severe maternal mortality in the US and close disparities in maternal health outcomes
- [HR 1620 \(Jackson Lee\) Violence Against Women Reauthorization Act of 2021](#) remains in Committees for both the Senate and the House

Additional links to Federal legislation National AWHONN supports: [S 1675 Maternal Health Quality Improvement Act](#), [S 149 Rural Maternal and Obstetric Modernization of Services \(MOMS\) Act](#) (both passed in the House during the 116th Congress), and [S 1658 Providing Urgent Maternal Protections \(PUMP\) for Nursing Mothers Act](#) (passed in the House 10/22/21).

State of California (<http://leginfo.legislature.ca.gov/>)

SB 65 (Skinner) California Momnibus Act Passes: What does this mean for Birthing People?

SB 65 was signed into law in October by Governor Newsom. Modeled after the Federal Momnibus Bill, this bill targets strategies to close the racial gaps in maternal and infant mortality rates. The bill will improve research and data collection on racial and socio-economic factors that contribute to higher rates of maternal and infant mortality in communities of color. This is a national issue, not just one endemic to California. The United States maternal mortality rates are consistently the worst for industrialized nations.

The following are provided for in the law:

- Codifies and strengthens the work of the CA-PAMR Pregnancy-Related Committee (go to [CMQCC.org](#) for more information), California's Pregnancy-Associated Mortality Review Committee, which investigates pregnancy-related deaths and make recommendations on best practices to avoid these preventable tragedies
- Improves data collection in the Fetal and Infant Mortality Review process (go to [NCFRP.org](#) the National Center for Fatality Review and Prevention website to learn more)
- Creates a fund to support the midwifery workforce
- Establishes a stakeholder workgroup to support implementation of the new Medi-Cal doula benefit
- Reduces CalWORKs paperwork requirements for pregnant persons which decreases structural

racism and other socio-economic factors that play key roles in causing racial and geographic disparities in birthing outcomes for people of color

SB 464 (Mitchell) California Dignity in Pregnancy and Childbirth Act took effect in January 2020 and aims to reduce pregnancy-related preventable deaths, severe illnesses, and associated health disparities that prevent Black birthing people from receiving equitable care. This law requires all perinatal service providers at hospitals, primary care clinics, and alternative birth centers in California to undergo evidence-based implicit bias training, with Attorney General Rob Bonta's office [ensuring compliance](#).

Facts:

- It is a startling that in 2021, Black birthing women are 4 to 6 times as likely to die from pregnancy/birth-related causes and twice as likely to suffer a maternal morbidity — such as hemorrhage and infection — than other racial/ethnic groups. These variations cannot be explained away by factors such as age, income, educational level, and health insurance status.
- Evidence [points](#) to implicit bias and racism, not race, as key causes of disparities in maternity care and maternal outcomes for Black birthing women. Research has shown that implicit biases affect the way we see other people, even if we don't believe the stereotype and it goes against our personal values. There is a deep connection between contemporary health care inequities experienced by Black birthing women and the legacy of racism in the US.

AWHONN California Section Supports the Dignity in Pregnancy and Childbirth e-Training

The training:

- Teaches medical professionals to identify and correct unconscious or conscious biases and misinformation
- Addresses personal, interpersonal, institutional, structural, and cultural barriers to accessing health care

To assist with learning and compliance, the [California Health Care Foundation](#) funded [Diversity Science](#) and [Rachel Hardeman, PhD, MPH](#) to develop a series of e-learning modules and resources on implicit bias and reproductive justice. This one-hour training, which the AHWONN California Section supports use of, meets all requirements of the senate bill and is available at no cost**. [Enroll now](#) to receive your certificate of course completion and help advance Black maternal health outcomes in California and beyond.

**There may be small administrative costs incurred for individuals and organizations pursuing continuing education credit through the course.

Have questions or want information about how to host the no-cost training on your organization's Learning Management System (LMS)? Email [Beccah Rothschild, MPA](#), outreach consultant to the California Health Care Foundation for the Dignity in Pregnancy and Childbirth Project.

AB 935 (Maienschein) Mothers and Children Mental Health Support Act of 2021: In Assembly Appropriations Committee as of 4/28/21; on hold until 2022.

DIGNITY IN PREGNANCY AND CHILDBIRTH



#DignityinBirthCA



From the Membership Coordinators

Laura Senn, MSN and Uwanda Purnell, MSM, RNC-OB, C-EFM

California has 3237 members as of December 1, 2021

[2021 CA Chapter Boundaries & Statistic](#)

[2021 CA Chapter Boundaries Map](#)

Laura is looking for candidates who are interested in becoming instructors in the new AWHONN program Obstetric Patient Safety (OPS): OB Emergencies Workshop.

- CA AWHONN Section has approx 30 nurses who are **Instructor Candidates** who will become certified instructors in the 1Q of 2022.
- These **OPS Instructors** will start scheduling classes throughout CA starting in 2Q 2022

Important points about the program:

- *The course content meets the Joint Commission requirements for **PC 06.01.01 Reduce the likelihood of harm related to maternal hemorrhage, and PC.06.03.01 Reduce the likelihood of harm related to maternal severe hypertension/preeclampsia***
- The course is ~16 CEUs, with the first half virtual, containing theory, and the 2nd half is an in-person workshop that contains skills and simulations.
- The workshop is designed to help nurses and providers identify, assess, and manage the care for women with specific obstetric emergencies such as hypertensive disorders of pregnancy, postpartum hemorrhage, and maternal sepsis

Click [THIS LINK](#) for more information.

CHAPTER and SECTION VACANCIES

Some chapters are looking for dedicated volunteers to fill vacancies.

Please see below and contact the Chapter Coordinator, listed, if you are interested.

LA Valley Chapter

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OPENING: Legislative

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OPENINGS: Membership, Education & Legislative

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OPENINGS: (3) School Liaisons

Orange County Chapter
 Sue Stone, MSN, RN, PHN, RNC-OB, C-EFM
 Chapter Coordinator

The Orange County Chapter welcomed the third quarter of 2021 virtually with a webinar, *Ghosts in the Birth Room: Understanding Trauma-Informed Care*. The presenter shared valuable information about how trauma returns to haunt birthing people and finding new insight into what trauma-informed care is. Despite some technical issues, the webinar was well-received and the content very important when caring for women and their families. Our meeting included a virtual Diaper Drive to support the Community Action Partnership of Orange County. Thanks to our attendee's generosity, we were able to donate 110 diapers and 224 baby wipes. Due to collaboration with AWHONN and the National Diaper Bank, Huggies will match our donation and help ease the problem of diaper needs within Orange County.



Our final virtual meeting for the year is planned for late November and will likely occur before this newsletter is released. We encourage everyone to join our Facebook page to stay up to date with events. Please share with friends and colleagues, being an AWHONN member is not a requirement. Our chapter is home to approximately 15 hospitals with birthing units and we have about 285 members within our county. We would like to extend a warm welcome to our new and returning members and we welcome any ideas for speakers and events.

Our very first in-person event is tentatively planned for **February 16th, 2022**, so stay tuned for further details.

Best wishes to our graduating students and nurses pursuing further education!

Sincerely,
 Sue Stone
 Shelley Burgoon
 Toni Lopez
 OC Chapter Team - Pictured right

[Visit Our Facebook OC Page.](#)

Chapter Openings:
 Legislative and Education
 If interest, contact the
[Chapter Coordinator.](#)



Salinas/ Monterey Bay Chapter
Julie Vasher, DNP, RNC-OB, CNS, C-EFM
Chapter Coordinator

Pictures of two members of the Salinas/Monterey Bay Chapter who participated in the Healthy Mom & Baby Virtual run 2021.



Chapter Opening: Membership
If interest, contact the [Chapter Coordinator](#).

Santa Barbara Chapter
Rebecca Licha, RNC-OB
Chapter Coordinator

Please [CLICK HERE](#) to complete AWHONN's Diversity, Equity and Inclusion survey as we seek to operationalize DEI as our world grows more diverse and globally interconnected, yet has profound racial and ethnic disparities in health outcomes and health care quality. AWHONN is committed to addressing the issues of racism and bias by auditing the organizational systems and collectively implementing solutions that result in AWHONN being a more equitable and anti-racist organization.

Chapter Openings: Legislative and Education
If interest, contact the [Chapter Coordinator](#).

SF Bay Area/North Bay Chapter
Judy Olive RNC-OB, MSN, CNS, IBCLC
Chapter Coordinator

The SF Bay Area/North Bay Chapter is focusing on mentoring future nurses. Below we are pleased to introduce some of our new chapter student members.



Anna Trinh

I am currently a junior BSN student at University of San Francisco. In a SF Bay Area Chapter Webinar with CMQCC I presented on the topic of caring for mothers with substance use disorders. I had the opportunity to speak about concepts that tie in with my current

semester in mental/community health. In addition, I have had the privilege of attending team meetings and actively contributing to the Bay Area Chapter. AWHONN has taught me about passion, teamwork, and introduced me to a great group of mentors and nurses that inspire me to succeed!

Jessica Nguyen

I am a first year nursing student at the College of San Mateo. I've always had an interest in women's health and nursing. My inspiration has always been my mom and my goal is to graduate nursing school!



Jaclyn Waal

I am a first-year student at the College of San Mateo. My goal is to obtain my master's degree in nursing. I would love to work in research especially pertaining to Women's health. I am inspired by how strong

women are and all the things our bodies can do, especially by giving birth. I have a three-year-old son who motivates me daily to work hard. I want to show him that hard work earns great reward.



Rhian Gracey

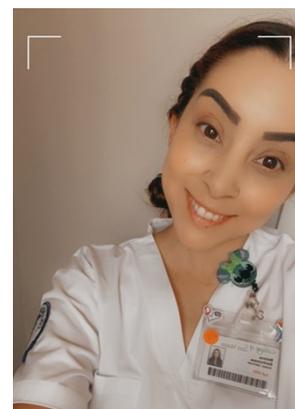
I am a nursing student at College of Marin (RN program) and Sonoma State University (concurrent BSN program). I am passionate about women's healthcare - my birth experiences with my four boys led me to become a doula and breastfeeding educator. After 10 years of

supporting birthing families, I am fulfilling my dream of becoming a nurse, hoping to focus on Labor and Delivery. Nursing school in the time of Covid has made it clear how important it is to foster connections with mentors and other nurses! I am thrilled to be involved with AWHONN Bay Area Chapter and welcome any chance to serve our community and empower birthing women and families throughout the Bay Area.



Melissa Bartholomew

I am a first-year nursing student at the College of San Mateo. I became interested in women's health/pediatrics after having my first baby. He was born prematurely and the care I received from my nurses was very inspirational. I have been working in pediatrics for 10 years and a LVN in pediatrics for 2



years and I would like to continue my healthcare journey in women's health. My goals are to work in postpartum care and as a lactation nurse.

California Leadership

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Happy
 Holidays



— AND A —

JOYFUL NEW YEAR